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R E M A R K S
ON THE
K I N G ' S E V I L,
OR
S C R O P H U L A.

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R E M A R K S

ON THE

K I N G ' S E V I L,

OR

S C R O P H U L A;

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF A

SPECIFIC MEDICINE

FOR THE CURE OF IT.

BY

DANIEL ROBERTS,
PANSWICK, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

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REMARKS

R E M A R K S

ON THE

K I N G ' S E V I L.

S E C T. I.

*OF THE PREVALENCE OF THE COMPLAINT;
AND THE GENERAL OPINION THAT IT
IS HEREDITARY CONSIDERED.*

THERE are few complaints incident to the human frame, which have baffled the skill of the Faculty more than the very common one, known by the name of the King's Evil, or Scrophula; it pervades every class of people, the rich and the poor, the old and the young, without distinction; it frequently terminates in death, but is always tedious in the cure.

To many labouring under this disease, the unpleasant and painful symptoms are aggravated by the consideration that it is hereditary and incurable.

THIS idea is generally received, and perhaps in this as in many other cases, we are induced to take upon trust an opinion transmitted from one generation to another, without investigating for ourselves, or considering how far it is well founded.

HOWEVER prevalent this opinion may be in the minds of those, *particularly*, who are afflicted with the Scrophula, I should hope they might receive some consolation, by reflecting, that many who have laboured for years under the complaint, have been perfectly cured, and lived to see children descend from them healthy, and sound, and free from every appearance

pearance of the Evil, even to the second and third generation.

BUT should instances occur to the contrary, in which the children of parents who have had this complaint, and have been supposed to be cured, have had the Evil, it proves only this, that the parents were not radically cured, but that it still lay concealed in the blood, otherwise it would follow, by the same parity of reasoning, that the venereal disease was also hereditary, as there have been many unfortunate children who have inherited this dreadful disorder from their diseased parents.

THIS leads me to remark, that the Scrophula, though not otherwise contagious, may be communicated to infants at the breast; and it is a matter of very great importance to the children of opu-

lent parents who are nursed by strangers, that strict inquiry should be made in respect to the health and character of those to whom they are entrusted in this material point.

THE pre-disposing cause of this complaint is attributed by a very sensible writer to the climate, it being more prevalent in the northern, than in the southern climates; and in some cases where patients have changed their situations great benefit has been derived, and a cure effected after long and repeated courses of medicine have proved ineffectual.

AND the reverse of this has frequently happened to some who have exchanged warm climates for cold ones, from whence this conclusion may be drawn, that the complaint is to be attributed more
to

to particular situation than any other cause; in this island the Scrophula is more frequent amongst the inhabitants of some parts than others, although the small extent of the country admits of little variety in general, not so much perhaps as might lead to infer that the pre-disposing cause has more influence in one spot than another, only as it is diversified by hill and dale, which occasions the difference, the vallies being some degrees warmer than the hill countries.

IF this is admitted, viz. the cause, it must attach to every individual without exception in the same situations, and this is in my opinion the most forcible argument that has been advanced by any writer on the subject, to subvert the prevailing idea of the disorder being hereditary, because it must follow that no individual or family is more exempt
than

than another, or that any inherit it particularly, but as local circumstances, and probably their mode of living, render them more liable to it.

FOR the preceding powerful reason, if no other could be advanced, it is very reasonable to conclude, that the Evil is by no means hereditary, and I could hope, that the contrary opinion having no argument to support it, will in time become obsolete and totally worn out of use. But as it affects the minds of some, it renders medicine of little avail to them, because they are induced to believe that it is incurable: others again are sometimes for particular reasons under the necessity of concealing it, and often seek relief by adopting every recipe which is recommended, without patiently waiting the effect of any.

By

By these and such like means its virulence increases, until it is too firmly rooted to give way to the prescriptions of the most experienced physicians, who are not often so soon consulted as the urgency of the case, and the necessity of knowing the first appearance of it, require for the ease and benefit of the afflicted.

It is certainly most prudent for every person who has appearances of this nature on any part of their bodies, which cannot be immediately accounted for, to suppose for themselves or their parents for them, that it proceeded from a tendency to a scrophulous habit, and without delay pursue such methods of cure as are most approved of. It might thus be soon checked, and the habit be cleansed before it could gain ground

ground so as to be alarming in its future stages.

THIS would in all cases be a prudent resolution, most certainly, because the medicine which is proper in this disorder is simple in its operations, and perfectly innocent, as will appear more evidently when it is treated of.

S E C T. II.

S E C T. II.

*THE VARIOUS SPECIES AND DIFFERENT
APPEARANCES OF SCROPHULA.*

THIS disease is so marked that few can mistake it; and it is well known to almost every one, as there is scarcely a parish in the kingdom without some person in it afflicted, either amongst the youth or aged; it is the common scrophula which is most generally observed, but there are several species, which Dr. Cullen has distinguished under four heads:—

THE first is the Scrophula Vulgaris, which is external and permanent, unaccompanied

accompanied with other disorders. In this species, weakness and running of the eyes are amongst the first symptoms, which sometimes terminate in a gutta serena and loss of sight: swelling of the upper lip, without any obvious cause, and behind the ears with kernels, from thence under the chin and in the sides of the neck: tumified tonsils, and tumors in the salivary glands under the tongue; these appearances are more immediately in view and within general notice; but at times in different persons tumors appear in every part of the body successively, as, on the shoulders, arms, and hands, under the arm pits and on the sides; particularly on and under the breast, both of male and female, which are often mistaken for cancers, and treated as such; the inside and outside of the thigh, and under the hams; on and under the knees, producing an anchylosis

or

or white swelling; on the legs, ancles, and feet, the last curtailing life by terminating in a spina ventosa, when the marrow is putrified, and death soon relieves the exhausted patient.

THE second species is the Scrophula Mesenterica, or internal: in this, the symptoms are fewer, but more alarming, to which the female sex are most subject. This species discovers itself by a pale countenance and loss of appetite, with swelling of the abdomen, and a fetid breath, and when it is neglected, proceeds to an universal bad habit of body; then the patient becomes listless, having an aversion to motion or exercise of any kind, with an unusual weariness and languor both of body and mind.

It may be and is probably from the different symptoms (sometimes assuming the appearance

appearance of a complication of disorders) in many subjects mistaken for many other disorders, and various and generally ineffectual medicines are administered.

The third species is the *Scrophula Fugax*, which is easily cured, being of the most simple kind, and occasioned by a resorption from the fores of the neck; it is seated on the back of the head and in the neck.

The fourth species is the *Scrophula Americana*, and is thus termed from its being accompanied with the yaws: this however, it must be observed, seldom occurs in this country unless amongst the sea-faring class of men, who have been diseased from an improper intercourse with the blacks on the coast of Africa and in the West Indies.

These

THESE are the several species with many of their attendant symptoms, which it appears proper to describe for the benefit of such as are not much acquainted with them, and which are sufficient for the purpose of ascertaining the three variations which are most common in this country. There is no part of the body but may be affected by this disorder, according to the difference of the hexis or habit, and the symptoms vary with the situation. To attempt a full description would be endless, as the disease appears in so many forms.

B S E C T.

S E C T. III.
*OF THE DIFFERENCE OF THE THEORIES
 RESPECTING THE SCROPHULA, &c.*

I SHALL not take upon me to determine, what the Evil proceeds from, by which is to be understood the effect of climate upon the system. Many theories have been adopted and exploded, of course no small inconsistency and perplexity have arisen in consequence of this disagreement in opinion: from hence the various prescriptions at different periods, and the multiplicity of recipes for its cure.

Some have pronounced vegetables and the different preparations of them fully
 adequate

adequate to the cure; on the other hand, the laborious preparations of chemistry on metals and minerals have had many admirers, yet the result has not answered fully the expectations of either party, so as to compensate the pains that have been taken for the purpose. The want of success has probably arisen from the slender hopes entertained of combining a medicine which would effectually answer the purpose of completing a cure; and also by observing that when it has been effected, it was by irregular means, which generally have carried with them more the appearance of chance than any regular operation or action of medicine in the system.

NEVERTHELESS a radical cure may be effected, and in some constitutions no long time is requisite, in others patience and perseverance are necessary; but much depends on the length

of time that the Scrophula has shewn itself in the constitution. The present practice recommends alternating the medicines, lest the effect thereof should be destroyed by the force of habit, and to further a cure, issues and perpetual blisters are sometimes directed.

FROM this practice of changing the medicines, it appears as if the Evil has a power of assimilating every thing into its baneful nature, and I have had reason to conclude that this is the case from some observations on cases wherein the complaint has apparently gained strength when managed in the common mode; which warrant this obvious inference, that the medicines employed are inefficacious for the purpose of restoring health, and that no solid principles have been established for the cure; therefore the treatment of this obstinate complaint

complaint has been founded more upon conjecture than certainty.

YOUTH are sometimes indebted to puberty for a cure, and happy it is for many that nature is at hand to relieve them; but if they pass this period without relief, their case is much to be lamented, as they frequently trail on a miserable existence, contending with the disease, with little hopes of a cure: many instances of this nature have come within my knowledge, and some have been afflicted for twenty years with little variation either in the degree or appearance of the disorder.

MARRIAGE is sometimes of service to females, but the effect occasioned thereby is frequently only to transmit the disease from themselves to their unfortunate infants, who, if they survive the load of pec-

cant humour which they have to contend with, are often pitiable objects. When this disorder attends the poorer class of people, they very much require the charity and compassion of their opulent neighbours; and charity cannot be better dispensed than in attention to the wants of our fellow-creatures in this deplorable disease, which very often, in every stage of it, occasions despondency, even where the accommodations are to be procured in abundance, much more amongst those who in many instances have scarcely the means wherewith to support life.

S E C T.

S E C T. IV.

THAT IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A FORMULA FOR THE CURE OF THE SCROPHULA, IT IS NECESSARY TO ASCERTAIN ITS ORIGIN,

IT has been already sufficiently shewn for the purpose, that the prevalence of this disorder is owing principally to climate, and that a change of climate has been very beneficial to some who could make the experiment; yet this does not ascertain its origin, or explain the reason why it prevails in this manner, to wit, this effect of a cold climate upon the constitution.

IF this was once determined, a formula might be established in common prac-

tice, by which means those who are afflicted with this complaint might hope for relief as certainly as in any other to which our nature is subject, and they would feel the same comfortable assurance that their pains would cease in time.

THERE are chronic diseases endemial to countries as this seems to be to particular latitudes, and the natives have specifics for the cure; arguing from hence, we may with great reason conclude, that this country is equally blessed with others, but for want of proper industry, or rather attention, it has not yet been discovered for this disease. Whether the miasma proceeds from our diet in general, or from what other source, remains to be discovered. Perhaps a nice analysis of the blood taken from subjects long diseased might lead to a discovery of its poisonous nature and its constituent qualities

qualities in this state, and it might be thence concluded what medicine is best calculated to counteract its baneful influence, and restore it to a proper state of health.

THE blood has been frequently analysed by men of genius, but they have usually taken human blood indiscriminately for the purpose, and have drawn comparisons between that and the blood of brutes, and moreover, with a view to determine the presence of an acid or alkali, a doctrine now unfashionable to admit; but whether they abound in the human blood or not, or whether there be any of either it is not necessary to discuss here, those who have endeavoured to examine this matter have formed no decisive conclusion; but until a complete analysis is made, by which this may be determined, and from whence

whence certain and positive conclusions may be drawn, on which to establish a sure principle, this disease must remain to be one of the opprobria medicorum.

S E C T.

S E C T. V.

*THAT THERE IS A SPECIFIC MEDICINE
FOR THE CURE OF THE EVIL.*

FROM what has been said we may conclude, that there are no fixed medical rules or principles for the cure of the Evil, therefore there can be no contradiction to rules when none exist. Neither is it material by whom a medicine is introduced for a disorder which the Faculty have long since termed an opprobrium, provided it is of such a nature as not to endanger the lives of mankind in any degree.

IT is with these considerations that I offer to the public a preparation which
is

is as justly entitled to the term specific for the cure of the King's Evil, or Scrophula, as the bark is for that of fevers; an assertion in which I am warranted by experience and knowledge of its effects. An objection probably may be made to such a conclusion, that the disorder may be healed, or only repelled; and that it will return again, and with redoubled force. To this which appears to be the most general question which will arise, I have only to remark, that there is scarce any complaint which will not return if care is not taken to prevent it, because the same causes will have the same effects, and the same means which once produced a disease will produce it again, if means be not used to prevent it; but in this case as well as every other, attention to regimen is an effectual preservative; this prevails equally throughout life, knowing

knowing by common observation, that the temperate man is the least subject to infirmities, and has the least occasion for medical aid.

The Author is well aware of the unfavourable light in which the publisher of any specifick medicine may be regarded, nevertheless every individual is entitled to the merits and advantages of his own labours, and where they do not militate against the interest of any particular persons, nor are prejudicial to any, the candid and impartial will allow his right to claim some advantages from his industry.

THE numerous tribe of Empirics with which this kingdom abounds, has prevented many excellent medicines from being presented to the publick by men
of

of abilities, but invincible modesty ; yet the author is not deterred by the ignominious epithets which are usually bestowed on such medicines, although he has a very great repugnance to a public exhibition in this manner ; but the considerations that the lives of his fellow-creatures are by no means sported with or endangered ; and that the medicine cannot possibly under proper limitation be of prejudice to any individual, but that on the contrary great benefit may be derived from it, have overcome every objection of this sort, and therefore he has resolved to submit it to the public.

He trusts it will answer the purposes so much to be desired, and he has no doubt but this is attained and the object completed. It is perfectly new, and has never been exhibited in practice, and contains no mercurial preparation whatever.

S E C T.

 S E C T. VI.

DIRECTIONS FOR TAKING THE MEDICATED VEGETABLE WATER, AND THE REGIMEN NECESSARY TO BE OBSERVED.

THIS preparation is extremely innocent and safe, it may be taken by persons of every age and sex without distinction, and *at all times*, without interruption of business, and does not require confinement: its operation is imperceptible in every progress of the cure; and by its balsamic influence on the blood, and the system in general, renders every application of the knife and caustics unnecessary, of course issues and blisters are useless.

THE

THE wounds incarnate and heal as the blood is restored to a healthy state: and by these means a total change takes place and a cure is effected as certainly as can be by human means, which is a general answer to every question which may be suggested respecting the cure of the Evil.

A diet drink is directed to be taken during the course of the medicine, composed of simples easily procured in town and country, consisting of Dock and Comfrey Roots, Cinquefoil and Betony or Ground-Ivy leaves: some if not all of these can be procured in any season of the year. It is best to vary the drink occasionally, and not too much tire the patient by a sameness. For this purpose I have annexed at the end of these remarks, a list of such herbs and plants as may be selected

lected for use. In cases of much relaxation, the Tormentil root is sufficiently tonic in the complaint, which may be added to the roots aforementioned, &c. or any part in the proportion of one to ten, to be increased or diminished according to the effect. One pound of roots and herbs to ten pounds of spring water, or which is best for this intention, distilled water, though few have conveniences of this kind, boiled over a gentle fire to the consumption of one half, makes a proper decoction; towards the end an ounce of liquorice may be added to make it palatable, with an ounce of saffrafras; this last tends much to purify the blood, and assist the medicine in its effects. The decoction is to be strained and kept for use, carefully observing never to drink it after it is turned or fermented, which frequently happens in warm weather, it is therefore best to

C

make

make the decoction in small quantities. The medicated vegetable water is to be taken three times in the day, beginning for children at the breast with a few drops, when further advanced half a tea spoonfull, and increasing the quantity as it agrees with them ; observing that if it creates a nausea or a looseness, in either case it must be diminished. Adults may take six tea spoons full *per diem*, increasing the quantity gradually, and observing the same directions as to its effects. It is best to take the first dose fasting, at least if it can be conveniently, one hour before breakfast, when the stomach is empty, as then it enters sooner into the circulation ; the second one hour before dinner ; and the last on going to bed, each time in an ounce or two of the decoction or diet drink.

The

The regimen consists in a total abstinence from all salted meats, high seasoned sauces, and strong fermented liquors. Patients who have submitted to my care have been more particularly restrained, but this depends on the different degrees of inveteracy of the complaint, and the length of time it has been in the constitution since its first appearance. But the rigid regimen which frequently deters from undertaking a course of medicine, is not exacted. A purgative should be taken once in ten days, and for this purpose Jalap (with two or three grains of Ipecacuanha) proportioned to the age and sex, is the best that can be ordered as a general cathartic where it agrees, otherwise the milder purgers may be used.

The wounds should be washed with an infusion or decoction of Hemlock in

milk, or Groundsel, only morning and evening, [it is necessary to take great care when Hemlock is used that it does not come near the eyes or mouth] and covered with Mullein, Vervain, Elder or some other cooling ointment on lint, and where a poultice can be conveniently applied, the herb should be secured on them with a bandage.

It appears very unnecessary to the author to subjoin a list of cures, for to instance the cases of the poor adds very little to the authenticity of facts; and the cases of the rich, or those situated in what is called the middle rank of life, are of too delicate a nature to be thus publicly mentioned.

It is sufficient for him that he is well assured of the truth he advances; that he
can

can venture to assert his medicine and mode of treatment of the Scrophula, as well as Leprous and Scorbatic complaints, is specific, as far as the common acceptation of the word warrants its use. Nevertheless he has inserted three different cases.

C A S E

C A S E F I R S T.

A lad of fifteen years of age had been afflicted for several years with the Evil from the middle of his thigh down to the ankle of the right leg: he had many wounds, and had been under the care of several who had pronounced him incurable: the future use of his leg was endangered, his knee being so stiff that he could not walk without great pain. This lad was perfectly cured in the space of ten weeks or thereabouts.

C A S E

C A S E S E C O N D.

A girl about five years of age was covered with the Leprosy, or the Lepra Græcorum ; in one week she experienced great benefit from the medicine, and in two months was perfectly cured.

C A S E

C A S E T H I R D.

Of a man thirty years of age who was afflicted with a hot scorbutic habit. He had a large indolent wound on the tibia, accompanied with a high fever; the lower part of the leg, ankle, and foot, was very much inflamed: a mortification was indicated. He applied to me, in two weeks he found relief, and in six weeks his wound was healed, and he was perfectly restored to good health.

To avoid the inconveniences to which the general sale of medicines is subject, it is prepared and sold by the author only; by which means, it will be more certain in its effects, as it can be
varied

varied according to the description of cases ; and no counterfeit can be obtruded upon the public, which interested minds are sometimes impelled to, to the detriment of the genuine medicine, as its reputation may be concerned, and which is frequently productive of bad consequences.

D

A Catalogue

*A Catalogue of Simples for the purpose of
Diet Drinks in Scrophulous Cases, viz.*

Leaves of

Betony	} Cardiac and Cephalic	Clivers	} Strengtheners and Astringents
Marjoram		Moufe Ear	
Thyme		Shepherds Purse	
Sage		Plantain	
Balm		Archangel	
Mugwort		Mint	
Motherwort		Burnet	
Pennyroyal		Oak	
Rue		Sanicle	
Angelica		Nettle	

Herbs

Leaves of

Marsh Mallows	}	Balsamic & Restorative
Mullein		
Maidenhair		
Coltsfoot		
Ground-ivy		
Vervain	}	

Roots of

Piony	}	Cardiac and Cephalic	Bistort	}	Astringents
Ginger			Tormentil		
			Ofmund Royal		
Elecampane	}			}	Detergents
Sharp pointed Dock					
Polypody					
Monk's Rhubarb					
Cinquefoil	}				

